



U.S. Immigration
and Customs
Enforcement

November 17, 2004

News Release

ICE DEPORTS 6,077 ALIENS FROM 6-STATE AREA IN FY-04 *Nearly half were criminals, including murderers, rapists, and child predators*

CHICAGO-- U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Chicago detention and removal officers deported 24 percent more criminal and illegal aliens living in the agency's Illinois, Wisconsin, Indiana, Kentucky, Missouri and Kansas operational area in fiscal year 2004 than they did the previous year.

This increase in removals reflects the national trend of increased deportations as the agency pursues its objective of restoring integrity to the nation's immigration system.

In all, ICE deported 6,077 criminal and illegal aliens from the six states.

“Our primary mission is to locate, detain and remove those aliens who violate our nation’s immigration laws, thereby providing the level of immigration enforcement necessary to keep America secure,” said ICE Field Office Director Debbie Achim, who leads ICE's detention and removal operations in the six state area. “By removing criminals, absconders and others who threaten public safety, we are playing a major role in keeping our communities safe.”

Of those deported from the states cited, 2,772 were aliens with extensive criminal histories, including José Luis Decuir-Morales, a Mexican national wanted for the 2003 murder of his father-in-law in Pacho Viejo, Veracruz in Mexico. Decuir-Morales was apprehended by ICE officers in Milwaukee and deported to Mexico May 17.

In another case, Jason Paul Flores was deported to Belize, where he faced charges of raping a 10-year-old girl and bludgeoning her to death with a steel pipe near the town of Dangriga. Flores escaped from a Dangriga prison in 2000 and made his way to Chicago. When ICE officers arrested Flores in June, he was found in the possession of a firearm and five pounds of marijuana.

In addition, ICE recorded a sizable increase in apprehensions under a new program specifically targeting fugitive aliens – individuals who were previously ordered deported from the U.S and failed

to surrender to the federal government, thereby becoming absconders. Chicago detention and removal officers apprehended a total of 572 fugitives during the past year.

During the first month of the new fiscal year, ICE officers from the Kansas City office removed 79 criminal aliens, 148 non-criminal aliens, and arrested 24 fugitives from Kansas and Missouri.

ICE

U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement is the largest investigative arm of the Department of Homeland Security.